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ABSTRACT

Student characteristics, opinions, and projections for fall 1981 entering freshmen at the University of South Carolina (USC) were compared to national norms, based on administration of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program questionnaire of the American Council of Education. Twelve areas of interest that were selected for analysis from the questionnaire are as follows: age, racial background, average grade in high school, highest degree planned anywhere, reasons noted as very important in choice of college, estimated parental income, probable major field of study, student concern about financing college, political orientation, parents' work status, views on controversial issues, and future estimations regarding education, career, and marriage, Responses are broken down by students' field of study and sex (when significant). It was found that the average entering freshman at USC for fall 1981 was: female; 18 years old; white/caucasian; a "B" student in high school; hopeful of achieving at least a bachelor's or master's degree; likely to have gone to college in order to find a better job; probably from a family with an annual income of between $15,000 and $50,000; intending to major in business or general studies or undecided; from a household where the mother works all or most of the time away from home; and middle-of-the-road politically. Compared with entering freshmen nationally, USC entering freshmen were: generally more likely to seek an advanced degree; similar in political orientation, socioeconomic levels, and views on controversial issues; and more likely to be pursuing business administration as a major and less likely to be pursuing professional fields of study. (SW)

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SUBJECT: Profile of U.S.C. Entering Freshmen Fall, 1981

RESEARCH NOTES NO. 39-82

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Research Notes
No. 39-82

Subject: USC Freshmen Profile - Fall, 1981

Nature and Scope of the Study:

During the 1981 summer orientation program, a questionnaire prepared by the American Council on Education (ACE) was administered to approximately 75% of the entering freshmen class at the University of South Carolina (USC). A total of 368 other institutions of higher education, including 73 two-year colleges, 250 four-year colleges and 45 universities, also participated in the continuing national study of higher education sponsored by ACE's Cooperative Institutional Research Program.

The following study presents a comparative analysis of the various demographic data, opinions, and projections of the entering freshmen at USC. USC entering freshmen are compared as a group to the national norms; they are also compared by the college in which they were enrolled.[1] Sex differences were reported where they appeared to be significant.

1. Comparative data were limited to eight categories. The following is a list of the categories, with a description of the colleges which were grouped in each category, the number of students in each category, and the proportion of students by sex in each category.

CATEGORY		NUMBER OF STUDENTS		
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total
1.	Undeclared	45.3	54.7	461
2.	Business Administration	50.6	49.4	247
3.	Humanities and Social Science (includes Criminal Justice)	42.7	57.3	239
4.	Science and Math	48.9	51.1	237
5.	Allied Health (Nursing Pharmacy and Health)	13.1	86.9	99
6.	General Studies	47.3	52.7	357
7.	Journalism/Education	30.2	69.8	172
8.	Engineering	75.8	24.2	223
	Total	46.9	53.1	2035

Twelve areas of interest were selected for this analysis from the original areas contained in the questionnaire. These 12 areas were selected to provide a composite profile of the entering freshmen at USC during the fall, 1981 term. Each of these areas is presented in tables and followed by comments to highlight the major comparisons.

[2]The 12 areas of interest which were considered are:

1. Age by December 31, 1981
2. Racial background
3. Average grade in high school
4. Highest degree planned anywhere
5. Reasons noted as very important in selecting this college
6. Estimated parental income
7. Probable major field of study
8. Student concern about financing college
9. Political orientation
10. "Students estimate chances are very good that they will"
11. Parents work status
12. Comparison of views on controversial issues

Table 1

A Comparison of Age for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Age by December 31, 1981	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
16 or younger	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1
17	4.1	3.6	5.5	7.6	3.0	6.7	2.3	6.7	5.1	2.2
18	78.3	79.4	77.7	76.8	78.8	72.5	71.3	80.3	77.3	73.6
19	17.2	16.2	15.5	14.8	16.2	18.8	19.8	13.0	16.6	22.5
20-25	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.8	1.0	2.0	0.6	0.0	0.8	1.3
26 or older	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC entering freshmen by age level were generally the same as the national norms.

2. USC entering freshmen were more likely to describe their age as 17 and less likely to be 19 when compared to the national norms.

3. There was a tendency for a higher percentage of younger students (less than 18) to enter the Colleges of Science & Math (7.6%), General Studies (6.7%), and Engineering (6.7%). There was a higher percentage of older students (19 and over) entering the Colleges of General Studies (20.8%) and Education/Journalism (20.4%).

Table 1-A

A Comparison of Age for USC Freshmen
by Sex and University Norms

Age by December 31, 1981	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 or younger	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
17	2.5	7.4	5.1	1.2	3.2	2.2
18	76.1	78.4	77.3	70.7	76.6	73.6
19	20.2	13.4	16.6	25.9	19.1	22.5
20-25	1.0	0.6	0.8	2.0	0.9	1.3
26 or older	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2

Comments:

Female Students were more likely than males to be 18 or younger whereas male students were more apt to be 19 or 20-25 at entry. Both the USC and national norms shared this finding.

Table 4

A Comparison of Racial Background
for USC Freshmen by College and University Norms

Racial Background	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
White/Caucasian	89.4	86.9	88.1	77.4	84.8	74.7	85.5	78.8	83.3	88.4
Afro-American Black/Negro	10.2	12.2	11.0	20.9	12.1	24.2	14.0	19.4	15.6	8.8
American Indian	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Oriental	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.5	1.2
Mexican-American Chicano	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3
Puerto Rican - American	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3
Other	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.3	2.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.0

Comments:

1. About 83% of the USC entering freshmen described themselves as "White/Caucasian" compared to the national norm of 88.4%.

2. USC entering freshmen, as may be expected of a southern state university, are more likely to describe themselves as Black than is common nationally. The percentages of freshmen describing themselves as American Indian, Oriental, Mexican-American/Chicano, Puerto Rican - American, and Other are similar to the national norms.

3. The USC colleges enrolling the highest proportion of Black students were General Studies (24.2%), Science & Math (20.9%), and Engineering (19.4%).

4. Note: Some percentages may total more than 100 if students checked more than one category.

Table 3

A Comparison of Average Grade in High School for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Average Grade in High School	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
A	22.6	22.2	42.7	34.4	15.2	2.5	31.0	25.5	23.4	27.2
B	65.2	70.3	48.7	57.9	79.8	56.3	61.4	64.2	61.7	57.9
C	12.2	7.4	8.5	7.7	5.0	40.3	7.6	10.3	14.6	14.7
D	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1

Comments:

1. USC entering freshmen reported an average grade in high school of "A" less frequently than the national norm (USC, 23.4%; national norm, 27.2%).

2. USC colleges enrolling the highest proportion of entering freshmen reporting that they had received an average grade of "A" in high school were Humanities and Social Sciences (42.7%) and Science & Math (34.4%).

Table 3-A

A Comparison of Average Grades in High School for USC Freshmen by Sex and University Norms

Average Grade in High School	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
A	17.9	28.5	23.4	22.9	31.7	27.2
B	61.8	61.8	61.7	58.1	57.8	57.9
C	20.2	9.8	14.6	18.8	10.5	14.7
D	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1

Comments:

1. It is noteworthy that USC females were much more likely (females, 28.5%; males, 17.9%) than USC males to report an average grade of "A" in high school.

2. USC males were twice as likely as USC females (males, 20.2%; females, 9.8%) to report an average grade of "C" in high school.

3. All of the above trends were in the same direction as the national norms.

Table 3-B

A Comparison of Average Grade in High School for USC Freshmen Entering Four-year Programs by Sex and University Norms

Average Grade in High School	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
A	21.7	33.6	28.0	22.9	31.7	27.2
B	64.6	61.5	62.9	58.1	57.8	57.9
C	13.9	4.9	9.2	18.8	10.5	14.7
D	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1

Comments:

1. This table shows the same information as Table 3-A but restricts the USC sample to students enrolled in four-year degree programs.

2. When restricted to students entering four-year programs only, USC entering freshmen appear more favorable by comparison with national norms.

Table 4

A Comparison of Highest Degree Planned Anywhere for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Highest Degree Planned Anywhere	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
None	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0
Associate (or Equivalent)	1.8	1.4	0.5	0.5	3.6	9.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.3
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)	37.0	35.7	16.0	22.8	50.6	45.9	35.5	38.0	34.4	40.5
Master's (M.A., M.S.)	35.7	43.3	36.6	34.2	28.9	30.6	48.9	42.7	37.3	32.7
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	8.8	4.3	19.2	17.8	8.4	5.2	10.6	16.1	11.1	9.7
M.D., D.C., D.D.S., D.V.M.	7.8	0.5	7.5	22.4	6.0	2.6	0.7	1.0	6.5	8.5
L.L.B., or J.D. (Law)	7.8	11.4	18.3	1.4	0.0	2.6	1.4	0.0	6.1	4.7
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.3
Other	1.0	2.4	0.5	0.9	1.2	3.0	1.4	0.5	1.4	1.3

Comments:

1. Compared to national norms (57.2%) a larger percentage of entering freshmen at USC planned to pursue post baccalaureate degrees (62.7%).

2. The largest percentage of USC students that considered the "Associate (or equivalent) degree" to be the highest would obtain was in the College of General Studies (9.0%). It's of interest to note, however, that nearly 90% of students entering General Studies aspired to baccalaureate or higher degrees.

3. USC colleges with the highest percentage of students planning post baccalaureate degrees were Humanities and Social Sciences (82.6%) and Science & Math (76.7%).

4. The College of Science and Mathematics had the highest percentage of students planning advanced degrees in medical areas (22.4%) while the College of Humanities and Social Sciences had the highest percentage of students planning law degrees (18.3%).

Table 4-A

A Comparison of Highest Degree Planned Anywhere for USC Freshmen by Sex and University National Norms

Highest Degree Planned anywhere	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
Associate (or Equivalent)	1.3	3.1	2.3	1.0	1.5	1.3
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)	34.7	34.2	34.4	38.1	43.0	40.5
Master's (M.A., M.S.)	36.1	38.5	37.3	33.0	32.4	32.7
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	12.7	9.6	11.1	11.2	8.2	9.7
M.S., D.C., D.D.S. D.V.M.)	6.6	6.4	6.5	8.8	8.1	8.5
L.L.B. or J.S. (Law)	6.7	5.6	6.1	5.2	4.2	4.7
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Other	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.3

Comments:

1. Females aspired to associate, master's and other degrees more frequently than males in the USC sample.

2. USC males were somewhat more likely than females to aspire to a doctoral, medical, or legal degree.

3. The USC results were generally in the same direction as the national norms.

Table 5

A Comparison of Reasons Noted as Very Important in Deciding to Go to College for USC Freshmen by College and University National Norms

Reasons noted as very important in deciding to go to college	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Parents wanted me to go	37.5	36.4	34.2	37.4	48.0	43.9	31.4	28.1	37.0	34.2
Could not find a job	3.3	3.3	3.0	4.3	1.0	6.3	2.3	5.0	3.9	4.2
Get away from home	10.3	8.7	7.6	9.0	10.1	10.5	9.4	10.5	9.6	9.9
Get a better job	73.7	79.2	67.4	74.8	83.5	71.1	73.1	83.7	74.8	75.6
Gain general education	71.7	72.6	77.2	73.1	74.7	73.7	77.9	63.2	72.7	67.4
Improve reading-study skills	44.0	43.2	34.0	45.3	45.5	56.7	48.8	33.5	44.4	37.8
Nothing better to do	2.0	0.8	2.5	2.2	1.0	2.0	0.6	1.8	1.7	2.0
Become a more cultured person	38.4	34.6	44.3	39.7	48.5	46.2	30.8	30.8	39.1	33.2
Make more money	70.3	80.3	67.5	74.3	76.5	72.9	63.7	74.9	72.3	70.2
Learn more about things	74.2	73.3	79.7	71.8	74.7	75.9	77.8	71.0	74.7	73.7
Meet new and interesting people	64.6	67.2	66.8	61.1	68.7	72.0	65.9	57.7	65.6	58.3
Prepare for graduate school	49.3	52.9	70.5	60.3	55.6	47.2	48.0	46.2	53.0	47.4

Comments:

1. USC students varied with respect to the reasons cited as very important in deciding to go to college. "Get a better job" (74.8%), "Learn more about things" (74.7%), "Gain general education" (72.7%), and "Make more money" (72.3%) were the most frequently cited reasons.

Comments (continued):

2. In comparison with the national norms USC students were more likely to cite all the reasons as important in deciding to go to college except for: "Get a better job", "Get away from home", and "Nothing better to do."

3. Students in the Colleges of Business Administration (80.3%) and Allied Health (76.5%) were most likely to go to college to "make more money."

4. Engineering students (83.7%) and Allied Health (83.5%) were most likely to go to college to "get a better job."

5. "Prepare for graduate school" was cited most frequently by students in the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences (70.5%) and Science & Mathematics (60.3%).

Table 6

A Comparison of Estimated Parental Income for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Estimated Parental Income	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Less than $6,000	2.8	2.3	2.8	5.6	6.7	7.1	5.2	7.8	4.8	3.4
$6,000 - $9,999	5.6	4.1	2.3	5.1	8.9	7.8	3.2	3.9	5.1	3.9
$10,000 - $14,999	9.2	6.4	10.5	9.3	10.0	9.8	11.6	14.2	9.9	8.6
$15,000 - $24,999	25.4	23.3	19.9	26.1	27.8	19.9	23.2	22.5	23.3	22.7
$25,000 - $34,999	22.4	25.1	22.7	21.9	21.1	21.7	23.2	19.1	22.3	23.1
$35,000 - $49,999	18.9	19.6	24.6	18.6	17.8	21.3	21.9	22.6	20.7	21.9
$50,000 or more	15.8	19.2	17.1	13.5	7.8	12.5	11.6	9.9	14.0	16.7

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC entering freshmen by estimated parental income are very similar to the national norms.

2. Over one-half of the USC entering freshmen (57.0%) estimated an annual parental income of $25,000 or higher.

3. At USC and nationally, a sizable percentage of the entering freshmen had estimated parental incomes exceeding $35,000 (USC 34.7%; national norms, 38.6%). However, 41.7% of the freshmen entering Humanities and Social Sciences had parental incomes in excess of $35,000.

Table 7

A Comparison of Probable Major Fields of Study for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Probable Major Fields of Study	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Arts & Humanities	10.3	0.4	34.9	0.8	0.0	7.0	60.5	0.0	13.2	10.1
Biological Sciences	2.6	0.0	3.8	24.3	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	4.6	3.3
Business Administration	18.9	97.1	4.4	1.2	0.0	41.6	1.2	0.0	23.6	20.3
Education	2.7	0.0	1.2	0.0	5.1	5.6	25.8	0.0	4.2	4.7
Engineering	5.7	0.0	3.9	2.0	2.0	7.1	0.6	98.5	14.5	17.6
Physical Sciences	3.1	0.0	1.8	12.8	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.5	2.8	2.3
Professional	12.1	0.4	6.8	18.4	90.7	8.9	0.0	0.5	11.9	18.2
Social Sciences	6.0	0.4	28.0	0.4	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	5.3
Technical	4.0	0.0	0.4	15.8	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	3.2	1.9
Other	34.9	1.6	14.6	23.9	1.0	18.2	12.0	0.5	16.8	16.0

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC freshmen entering the different major fields of study were generally the same as national norms.

2. Areas in which the greatest difference occurred between USC and national norms were in Business Administration (USC 23.6%, National Norms 20.3%) and Professional (USC 11.9%, National Norms 18.2%).

Table 8

A Comparison of Student Concern about Financing College
for USC Freshmen by College and University National Norms

Concern about Financing College	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
No concern	34.4	40.5	37.9	29.9	27.3	41.8	24.6	28.6	34.5	34.4
Some concern	48.1	46.7	46.8	46.2	54.5	42.4	56.7	51.4	48.0	49.5
Major concern	17.5	12.8	15.3	23.9	18.2	15.8	18.7	20.0	17.5	16.1

Comments:

1. Nearly two-thirds of the entering USC freshmen (65.5%) expressed some or major concern about financing college. These levels of concern were generally the same as the national norms.

2. USC students most likely to express major concern about financing were enrolled in the Colleges of Science & Mathematics (23.9%) and Engineering (20.0%).

Table 9

A Comparison of Political Orientation for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Political Orientation	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Far Left	0.7	0.4	2.2	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.2
Liberal	17.9	11.9	23.5	19.1	7.4	16.5	21.2	14.7	17.1	17.3
Middle-of-the-Road	56.4	57.2	42.6	53.8	73.7	55.5	57.0	57.8	55.5	56.7
Conservative	24.2	29.7	31.3	27.1	10.9	23.4	21.2	25.7	25.5	23.9
Far Right	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.7	0.9

Comments:

1. Political orientations of USC entering freshmen were almost identical to students in the national norms.

2. Over one-half (55.5%) of the USC freshmen described their political orientation as "middle-of-the-road" while 18.3% described themselves as "far left or liberal" and 26.2% described themselves as "far right or conservative."

3. The greatest percentage of USC entering freshmen describing themselves as "liberal" or "far left" (25.7%) and "conservative" or "far right" (31.7%) were found in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

4. USC freshmen most likely to describe themselves as "middle-of-the-road" were in the College of Allied Health (73.7%).

Table 10

A Comparison of Future Estimations Made by USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Students estimated chances are very good that they will	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Change major fields	41.2	5.8	15.6	9.1	8.4	19.6	7.7	7.9	18.2	14.2
Change career choice	29.7	5.4	13.9	8.2	7.4	15.1	4.8	4.7	13.8	12.3
Live in a co-ed dorm	21.3	21.5	22.8	22.1	21.3	19.3	19.6	19.4	20.9	31.6
Graduate with honors	7.7	9.2	26.6	15.1	7.4	5.2	10.1	12.2	11.3	10.6
Make at least a "B" average	30.6	34.7	49.8	48.7	34.0	25.2	36.9	34.1	35.7	43.1
Work at outside job	21.7	19.9	18.9	19.0	18.1	18.0	19.0	18.6	19.4	24.7
Seek vocational counseling	4.9	4.3	6.2	3.9	2.2	2.8	2.4	1.9	3.8	5.4
Get a bachelor's degree	61.7	71.8	78.7	77.5	78.7	47.0	73.5	78.4	68.1	76.6
Be satisfied with college	54.3	57.9	67.1	61.6	64.9	54.9	67.3	58.6	59.3	59.5
Find a job in preferred field	63.8	76.3	73.4	74.9	90.5	58.4	73.2	78.4	70.6	76.8
Marry within a year after college	15.7	18.3	16.7	18.2	30.4	16.3	21.6	19.4	18.2	19.6

Comments:

1. When compared to the national norms, a lower percentage of USC freshmen estimated that chances were good that they would "live in a co-educational dorm" (USC, 20.9%; national norms, 31.6%), would "seek vocational counseling" (USC, 3.8%; national norms, 5.4%), and "work at an outside job" (USC, 19.4%; national norms, 24.7%).

Comments (continued):

2. In addition, a smaller percentage of USC freshmen estimated that chances were very good that they would "make at least a 'B' average" when compared to the national norms (USC, 35.7%; national norms, 43.1%). This seems clearly related to the fact that a lower percentage of USC students reported making an average grade of "A" in high school (see Table 3).

3. Over two-thirds of the USC freshmen (68.1%) reported that chances were very good that they would "get a bachelor's degree"; over half reported (59.3%) that they would "be satisfied with college" and 70.6% estimated that they would probably "find a job in a preferred field."

4. USC students varied somewhat with respect to estimations that they would "change major fields." Students from the Center for Undeclared Majors were most likely to make the statement (41.2%), and those in Business Administration were least likely (5.8%).

5. USC freshmen varied by college with respect to estimations that they would "find a job in a preferred field." About 90.5% of the freshmen in Allied Health agreed with the statement, whereas little more than half (58.4%) of the General Studies freshmen concurred with the statement. The other colleges fell within these two extremes (USC, 70.6%; national norms, 76.8%).

Table 11

A Comparison of Parents Work Status for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Work Status	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Father works all or most of the time	98.7	98.3	97.1	95.4	96.9	96.8	97.1	98.2	98.7	97.9
Mother works all or most of the time	48.9	46.8	48.1	51.5	51.1	51.0	57.3	53.7	50.6	52.1
Mother held part-time job all or most of the time	12.9	11.7	10.8	12.7	17.4	17.7	14.6	11.5	13.5	14.1

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Comments:

1. More than half of the USC entering freshmen indicated the mother worked all or most of the time.

2. The working status of parents is similar for both USC entering freshmen and the national norms.

Table 12

A Comparison of Views on Controversial Issues of USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Percentage of students agreeing strongly or somewhat that	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Government is not protecting consumer	69.0	66.4	61.6	70.9	76.5	70.3	65.5	67.4	68.1	66.1
Too many rights for criminals	66.4	76.1	65.2	69.9	68.4	63.4	66.3	73.0	68.1	68.6
Will not obey laws against own views	35.1	35.6	30.7	26.7	34.0	39.7	32.9	35.0	34.2	29.0
Should abolish death penalty	25.1	20.3	27.7	21.3	23.2	31.6	26.7	21.9	25.2	26.5
Abortion should be legalized	64.7	67.9	57.6	64.7	56.6	62.4	55.2	61.1	62.3	56.1
Women's activities best in home	27.6	20.8	17.7	27.9	23.2	39.3	22.4	28.6	27.0	25.5
Sex OK if people like each other	47.7	50.9	41.1	44.6	34.0	53.7	42.1	53.3	47.4	45.8
Marijuana should be legalized	41.0	33.9	36.8	30.7	30.6	38.4	28.4	37.9	36.1	32.6
Busing OK to achieve balance	40.3	41.9	34.8	37.9	49.5	57.1	29.6	35.1	41.3	32.4
Prohibit homosexual relations	54.0	49.6	40.7	47.8	62.1	57.1	42.1	54.8	51.1	48.8
Adopt open admissions at public college	22.8	24.1	22.2	24.0	27.2	40.3	21.1	23.7	26.1	35.8

Comments:

1. In general USC students held views similar to the national norms on controversial issues. In comparison, USC students were more likely to favor legalizing abortion (USC, 62.3%; national norms, 56.1%), achieving racial balance through busing (USC, 41.3%; national norms, 32.4%), and refusing to obey laws against own views (USC, 34.2%; national norms, 29.0%). Students nationally were more likely to favor open admissions at public colleges (national norms, 35.8%; USC, 26.1%)

2. A clear majority of USC students agreed "government is not protecting consumers" (68.1%), there are "too many rights for criminals" (68.1%), and "abortion should be legalized (62.3%).

3. Less than one-third of USC students favored abolishing the death penalty (25.2%), restricting women's activities to the home (27.0%), and adopting open admissions at public colleges (26.1%).

4. USC students were more closely divided on such other issues as "sex is OK if people like each other" (47.4%) and prohibiting homosexual relations (51.1%).

Table 12-A

A Comparison of Views on Controversial Issues of USC Freshmen
by Sex and University National Norms

Percentage of students agreeing strongly or somewhat that	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Government is not protecting consumer	64.5	71.4	68.1	62.1	70.1	66.1
Too many rights for criminals	73.8	63.1	68.1	74.2	62.9	68.6
Will not obey laws against own views	35.8	32.7	34.2	31.9	26.0	29.0
Should abolish death penalty	22.8	27.3	25.2	22.0	31.1	26.5
Abortion should be legalized	60.0	64.5	62.3	54.4	58.2	56.1
Women's activities best in home	35.8	19.2	27.0	33.2	17.5	25.5
Sex OK if people like each other	63.8	32.8	47.4	60.2	30.9	45.8
Marijuana should be legalized	39.0	33.4	36.1	35.8	29.4	32.6
Busing OK to achieve balance	39.9	42.6	41.3	31.4	33.5	32.4
Prohibit homosexual relations	60.4	42.9	51.1	57.9	39.6	48.8
Adopt open admissions at public college	28.0	24.5	26.1	37.4	34.2	35.8

Comments:

1. Major differences by sex were observed on several items. Men were almost twice as likely as women to agree that sex is OK if people like each other. Men were also more likely than women to agree that women's activities should be confined to the home. These trends were similar for USC freshmen and the national norms.

Comments (continued):

2. Women were more likely than men to favor abolishing the death penalty and to agree that government is not protecting the consumer. Women were less likely than men to agree that criminals have too many rights, that homosexual relations should be prohibited, and that marijuana should be legalized.

SUMMARY

Profile - The average entering freshman at USC for fall, 1981 was:

-- a female

-- 18 years of age

-- a white/caucasian

-- a "B" student in high school

-- hoping to achieve at least a bachelor's or master's degree

-- likely to have gone to college in order to get a better job

-- probably from a family with an annual income of between $15,000 and $50,000

-- Undeclared, Business, or General Studies major

-- from a household where the mother works all or most of the time away from home

-- "middle-of-the-road" politically

-- very similar to national college student norms on controversial issues

Profile - Compared with entering freshmen nationally, USC entering freshmen were:

-- more likely to be female

-- less likely to have maintained an "A" average in high school

-- more likely to be Black

-- generally more likely to seek an advanced degree

-- similar in political orientations, socio-economic levels, and views on controversial issues

-- more likely to be pursuing business administration as a major and less likely to be pursuing professional fields of study